



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY
UNIT #15236
APO AP 96205-0009

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AUG 08 2001

EAGA-PP (100)

MEMORANDUM FOR All Eighth United States Army Assigned Soldiers and Civilians

SUBJECT: Eighth United States Army Command Policy Letter # 9 -- Living Standards for Soldiers in Barracks

1. PURPOSE: To provide guidance and establish policy for living standards for soldiers residing in barracks within Eighth United States Army (EUSA).
2. GENERAL: Soldiers, regardless of marital status, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and allowed to live in a clean, healthy, and safe environment. This environment must provide privacy and comfort, as well as a predictable living standard regardless of installation of assignment. As we assign soldiers to a barracks room and an area, the chain of command has an inherent responsibility to make sure proper living standards and conditions are maintained. As such, we must be involved to the degree necessary. There are no arbitrary limits to this involvement or specified number of visits or checks to be completed. The chain of command determines the amount of time needed to discharge its responsibilities in this area. This policy reinforces the importance of our Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) leadership in daily care of subordinates, as well as the responsibility of all leaders to know, clearly define, and reinforce living standards for soldiers in barracks. NCOs remain responsible for their soldiers' welfare to include their billets.
3. APPLICABILITY: This policy is effective immediately and applies to all units and personnel assigned or attached to EUSA, and all personnel who reside in or visit barracks under the control of EUSA.
4. ENFORCEMENT: This policy is punitive in nature. Personnel subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) who fail to comply with the provisions of this policy letter are subject to punishment under the UCMJ, and adverse administrative action authorized by applicable regulations.
5. SUPPLEMENTATION: This policy will not be restated nor changed by subordinate commanders except as authorized herein.

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6. POLICY:

a. Barracks rooms. Soldiers are no longer required to maintain rooms in a standard configuration. Rooms may be arranged to allow soldiers more freedom of expression, eliminating uniformity standards but emphasizing cleanliness, safety, and proper accountability. This freedom allows for microwaves in accordance with (IAW) installation and fire safety regulations, telephones (as trunking is available), civilian blankets, shower curtains, bedcovers, and other features normally found in government or private homes. Soldiers may hang framed pictures on their walls. Posters need not be framed but special care will be used in hanging these posters, ensuring walls are not damaged. Soldiers may use clear adhesive tape or fun tack (adhesive putty) to hang posters on walls. Duct tape, olive drab green (100 mph) tape and other similar devices will not be used on any walls since they cause paint to peel when removed or leave a residual glue. Wall hanging boards and tacks will be used when available. Unit Repair and Utility (R&U) NCOs may use troop self-help stores to implement a proactive approach to safe, alternative methods of hanging pictures. These pictures and posters will be in good taste and will not be obscene, lewd, or lascivious; nor indicate the support of a country, organization, or individual advocating the overthrow of the U.S. or Republic of Korea (ROK) Government (commanders are reminded of their authority and responsibilities IAW AR 600-20, paragraph 4-12 to prohibit the display in billets of extremist symbols and activities in order to ensure good order and discipline). Pictures showing male or female genitals or naked pubic regions will not be displayed. Flags in good taste may be hung, i.e. American, U.S. state flags or national flags from a soldier's country of origin. Flags that may be racially inflammatory or paramilitary in nature will not be displayed. Where installation self-help stores can support it, rooms may be painted in conservative, pastel colors that are in good taste. These rooms must be repainted to the original color upon departure of the room's occupants.

b. Inspections. Commanders retain the authority to conduct legal searches, and health and welfare inspections. This policy letter does not limit in any way the authority to conduct inspections and inventories pursuant to Military Rule of Evidence 313. Enforcing standards, caring for soldiers, and identifying shortfalls in the function of appliances and plumbing in rooms, safety, or living standards are among the most important responsibilities of commanders and NCOs. Daily room checks are not required but commanders will use their discretion in balancing the maintenance of standards while treating soldiers with respect. Soldiers do not have to be present during legal searches or health and welfare inspections.

c. Visitation. With limited restrictions, soldiers residing in barracks may have visitors of either sex. When more than one soldier resides in the room, they must jointly agree to visitation prior to the visit. The rights of privacy take precedence over visitation and

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all soldiers in the barracks must be afforded private time during each day when no visitors are present. The following restrictions apply (non-duty days are defined as Saturday, Sunday and Holidays). Brigade-level commanders may alter the hours of visitation in (1) below as necessary to accommodate shift workers, and those who routinely work irregular hours or on weekends, such as MEDCOM personnel.

(1) Hours of visitation.

(a) Duty days before duty days: 1700 to 2400.

(b) Duty days before non-duty days: 1700 to 0200.

(c) Non-duty days before non-duty days: 1000 to 0200.

(d) Non-duty days before duty days: 1000 to 2400.

(2) Any non-military visitor under the age of 18 and not a member of the soldier's immediate family (brother, sister, or spouse) must be accompanied by a legal parent or guardian.

(3) Soldiers are responsible for their visitors' actions in the barracks. Visitors will sign-in/out at the Charge of Quarters (CQ) desk. Additionally, soldiers are responsible for ensuring any quests to the barracks are properly signed on and off the installation being visited, as necessary.

(4) Dual military couples, authorized by a 06 level commander, are allowed to live in the same room in a barracks designated for such cohabitation. Otherwise cohabitation is strictly prohibited.

d. CQs are mandatory. At all times, the chain of command is responsible for the safety, security and environment in which their soldiers live. Commanders will establish procedures by which billets are checked during non-duty hours. Brigade-level commanders will determine the appropriate mix and number of CQs used based on the number and type of barracks utilized, and mission requirements. Traditionally, NCOs have taken the lead in knowing how their soldiers are living. This policy does not change that historical tie between NCO and those in his/her charge. NCOs are responsible for their soldiers' well-being in the billets. CQs will not watch television nor listen to radios. Instead, CQs will stay alert, make their required checks and follow their instructions.

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e. A floor and/or wing sergeant will be in-charge of each floor. These NCOs will reside in the barracks. In those cases where a unit does not have enough NCOs assigned, a senior specialist can be utilized as floor or wing sergeants. The emphasis is on promoting responsible leadership at the lowest level.

f. Soldiers will fully employ the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) Council as a means to effectively communicate the needs of barracks residents to the commander.

g. Quiet Hours. Brigade-level commanders will establish quiet hours based on mission requirements. Units with shift workers will implement policies to accommodate the needs of all personnel residing in the barracks.

h. Pets. No pets, including caged animals, are allowed in the barracks. Reasons for this restriction include consideration for roommates, disposition and care upon deployment, and humane care for pets, among others. The only exception to this policy is for units that have mascots (dogs). Mascots are allowed at the company-level and above. It is the unit chain of command's responsibility to ensure that these animals are housed and cared for properly.

7. This policy requires maximum effort by the chain of command and every soldier. It is in no way a reduction of leader responsibilities for the discipline of soldiers or care of facilities or equipment. Leaders at all levels must know how their soldiers live both on and off-post, and are responsible for the soldiers entrusted to them. Commanders remain responsible for the health, welfare and security of soldiers. This policy increases individual responsibility and recognizes that the majority of our soldiers are mature, responsible and accountable for their actions. Company commanders or unit first sergeants will personally brief newly assigned personnel on the barracks visitation policy and provide them with a written copy. Soldiers will acknowledge in writing the receipt of a copy of the barracks policy. Soldiers will further acknowledge in writing that they have been briefed about the policy and that they understand it. Commanders will post the barracks visitation policy on unit and barracks bulletin boards.

8. For inquiries concerning this policy letter contact the EUSA ACoS, G1 Policy and Programs Division at 723-6788.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Zanini', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

DANIEL R. ZANINI
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding